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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/595,480

02/08/2007

Marco Lopez

034166.024

1237

25461 7590 07/21/2009
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CAM N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1793

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/21/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/595,480	Applicant(s) LOPEZ ET AL.	
	Examiner Cam N. Nguyen	Art Unit 1793	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04/03/09 (*an election*).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/21/09,05/16/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1793

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 9-20, in the reply filed on 04/03/09 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 21-30 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention(s), there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 04/03/09.

Specification

3. The examiner has not checked the specification to the extent necessary to determine the presence of **all** possible minor errors (grammatical, typographical, and idiomatic). Cooperation of the applicant(s) is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant(s) may become aware of in the specification, in the claims and in any further amendment(s) that applicant(s) may file.

Applicant(s) is also requested to complete the status of the copending applications referred to in the specification by their Attorney Docket Number or Application Serial Number, **if any**.

The status of the parent application(s) and/or any other application(s) cross-referenced to this application, **if any**, should be updated in a timely manner.

Art Unit: 1793

Claim Objections

4. Claims 17-20 are objected to because of the following informalities:

A. In claim 17, line 2, “and/or mixtures thereof” should be changed to recite --, or mixture thereof--.

B. In claim 18, line 2, “and/or mixtures thereof” should be changed to recite --, or mixture thereof--.

C. In claim 19, line 2, “and/or mixtures thereof” should be changed to recite --, or mixture thereof--.

D. In claim 20, line 2, “and/or mixtures thereof” should be changed to recite --, or mixture thereof--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112 (Second Paragraph)

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 11-12 & 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 11 & 12, , the proper Markush terminology is --the inorganic oxide is selected from the group consisting of titania tantalum pentoxide (Ta₂O₅) ~~and/or~~ and combinations thereof--.

Art Unit: 1793

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ***Beer '498***, (US Pat. 3,621,498).

Beer '498 discloses an electrode for use in an electrolytic reaction comprising an electrically conductive base selected from the group consisting of aluminum, tantalum, titanium, zirconium, bismuth, tungsten, niobium, and alloys thereof, at least a portion of the surface of said base having a coating of a mixed crystal material consisting essentially of at least one oxide of a film-forming metal and at least one oxide of a platinum group metal (see col. 13, claim 1). The oxide of a film-forming metal is an oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, tantalum, titanium, zirconium, bismuth, tungsten and niobium (see col. 13, claim 2). The oxide of a platinum group metal is an oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of palladium, platinum, rhodium, iridium, ruthenium and osmium (see col. 13, claim 3). See also other claims in the Claim Section and entire reference for further details.

With respect to the claimed BET surface area and water solubility of the inorganic oxide in claims 9 & 13-16, it is inherent and expected that the disclosed electrically conductive base material would have the same surface area and water solubility properties because they are the same materials as recited in the dependent claims 11 & 12.

Art Unit: 1793

With respect to the claimed metal concentration of the inorganic oxide and atomic ratio of the Ir/Ru in claims 9 & 10, it would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have predetermined an optimum amount of such electrically conductive base material and the platinum group metal oxides in the disclosed electrode catalyst in order to achieve an effective material since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. See *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980). See also *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Citations

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. All references are cited for related art. See PTO-892 Form prepared.

Conclusion

8. Claims 9-30 are pending. Claims 9-20 are rejected. Claims 21-30 are withdrawn due to nonelected (distinct) invention(s). No claims are allowed.

Contacts

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Primary Examiner CAM N. NGUYEN, whose telephone number is 571-272-1357. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM, at alternative work site.

Art Unit: 1793

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman, can be reached on 571-272-1358. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Cam N. Nguyen/

Primary Examiner

Art Unit: 1793

/C. N. N./

July 19, 2009